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AF / 3731

PATENT APPLICATION

Attorney Docket: 2748CON (203-3036CON)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John E. Carlson, et al.

Examiner: Michael H. Thaler

Serial No.: 09/994,980

Group: Art Unit 3731

Filed: November 27, 2001

Dated: January 21, 2005

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR ESTABLISHING
VASCULAR ACCESS**

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

do
NOT
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no

AMENDMENT "B"

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed October 25, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

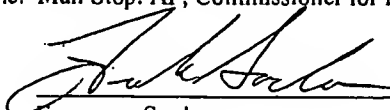
Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Mail Stop: AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: January 21, 2005


Francesco Sardone